

20319 82nd Avenue SE  
Snohomish, WA 98296

January 27, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft  
US Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530


Dear General Ashcroft:

I am writing today to encourage the Department of Justice to accept the Microsoft antitrust settlement. The government needs to stay out of private business. The United States is the only country in the world that destroys its own industry. We have destroyed several major companies with our antitrust laws, take a look at Eastman Kodak and AT&T before and since government anti-trust involvement, if you think my position is not tenable. The government has now undertaken an attack on Microsoft. This issue needs to be put to rest. The government needs to get out of private business affairs and allow business to rise or fall in the marketplace.

In order to put this issue behind them Microsoft has agreed to many terms. They have agreed to release part of the Windows base code to their competitors which cost them many years and millions of dollars to develop. This is exactly what the government did to Eastman Kodak, in the "public interest" with their chemical formulae and Kodak, once a world leader in their field, is now struggling to survive. Where is the public interest in the destruction of successful businesses that provide income and employment to many people and help the balance of payments? Once again, the government is trying to correct a perceived wrong (perceived by unsuccessful competitors and their elected representatives) at the expense of the innovative and successful.

Microsoft and the technology industry need to move forward, the only way to move forward is to put this issue in the past. Please accept the Microsoft antitrust settlement and allow them to get on with the development of the best software business in the world.

Sincerely,

  
Robert W. Christman